REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 51-63 are pending.

Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131

Applicant submits herewith a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 and supporting documentation to evidence that the invention was conceived in the United States prior to January 16, 1996, the earliest of the filing dates of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,078 to Arango, and U.S. Patent No. 5,790,935 to Payton.

The invention was reduced to practice when the parent application 08/703,487 was filed August 26, 1996. Diligent efforts to reduce the invention to practice include an invention disclosure meeting conducted with Applicant's attorney February 7, 1996, a first draft of the application being completed April 2, 1996, and the application 08/703,487 being filed August 26, 1996.

Accordingly, the Arango and Payton references should be removed as references because they are not prior art.

The Declaration is signed by only one of the two inventors: Paul Leach. The signature of the signing inventor is sufficient (MPEP §715.04).

35 U.S.C. §103 Claim Rejections

Claims 51-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,790,935 to Payton (hereinafter, "Payton"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,078 to Arango (hereinafter, "Arango") (*Office Action* p.2). Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejection be withdrawn because Payton and Arango are removed as prior art references.

Conclusion

Pending claims 51-63 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that preclude issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: Nor 20, 2003

By:

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